

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 261500Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3715
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, AU, CZ
SUBJECT: MORE CHARTER 77 SIGNERS EMIGRATE

1. AUSTRIAN DCM ROBERT KARAS TOLD US SEVERAL MORE CHARTER 77 SIGNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES (ANOTHER SOURCE TELLS US THE NUMBER OF EMIGRES IS ABOUT 20) HAVE RECENTLY LEFT CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR AUSTRIA. ACCORDING TO KARAS, THESE MOST RECENT EMIGRES HAVE DEPARTED WITH A TRAVEL DOCUMENT (A CARTE D'IDENTITE WITH TITRE DE PASSAGE), INDICATING THEY ARE CONSIDERED STATELESS PERSONS BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES. NOTE: UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, PERSONS EMIGRATING FROM CSSR RECEIVE "EMIGRATION PASSPORTS," WHICH ARE ANNOTATED TO PERMIT RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA ONLY WITH PERMISSION OF GOC. SUCH PASSPORTS DO NOT IMPLY THAT CITIZENSHIP HAS BEEN LOST. INDEED, WE HAVE BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT REVOCATION OF CITIZENSHIP WAS ILLEGAL WHILE CITIZEN RESIDING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA; HOWEVER, WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT PERSONS WISHING TO EMIGRATE MAY BE ASKED IF THEY CONSENT TO LOSING THEIR NATIONALITY AND BE GIVEN STATELESS IDENTITY DOCUMENTS IF THEY AGREE. GERMAN CONSUL SCHEER TELLS US THAT A SIMILAR PROCEDURE HAS BEEN USED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN RESETTLING ETHNIC GERMANS IN THE FRG; WHEN PEOPLE SO DOCUMENTED CROSS THE FRG BORDER THEY IMMEDIATELY BECOME GERMAN NATIONALS

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(THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD NOT BE TRUE IN THE CASE OF ETHNIC CZECHS OR SLOVAKS). SCHEER SAYS CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS SIGNED "AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PREVENTION OF STATELESS PERSONS "(SIC: WE CANNOT FURTHER IDENTIFY) AND THINKS PRAGUE MAY BE VIOLATING IT WITH THIS TITRE DE PASSAGE PROCEDURE. END NOTE.

2. SCHEER SAYS FRG HAS RECEIVED THREE APPLICATIONS FROM POTENTIAL

CHARTER 77 EXILES.

3. KARAS ALSO TOLD US THAT HE HAS HEARD A NEW LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 150 CHARTER 77 SIGNERS IS ABOUT TO BE RELEASED BY UNSPECIFIED SPOKESMEN FOR THE MOVEMENT --DESPITE EFFORTS BY CHARTER GROUP TO DISSUADE NEW ADHERENTS FROM SIGNING. IF SO, THE LIST WOULD BRING TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHED NAMES TO ABOUT 1000.

4. CONCLUSION: REPORTED CONTINUING PROGRAM OF ALLOWING CHARTER 77 SIGNERS TO GO INTO EXILE IN THE WEST INDICATES GOC IS CONTINUING TO MOVE AGAINST ACTIVE "DISSIDENTS" BY ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS, ALTHOUGH PRESS CAMPAIGN ON THIS ISSUE HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED. IT APPEARS AN EXILE POLICY SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE GDR MAY BE IN EFFECT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO INDICATION YET THAT ITS SCOPE WILL BE AS LARGE.

5. DEPARTMENT EXPERTS MAY WISH TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE CZECHOSLOVAK VIOLATION OF STATELESS PERSONS CONVENTION IN PREPARATION OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS FOR BELGRADE II.
BYRNE

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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